ANDO, et al., 10/020,116   500.40994X00 / E6320-01EW
17 November 2006 Amendment   Page 2
Responsive to 17 July 2006 Office Action

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) An appliance located-states, which are changed in

dependence on interaction with a person, accumulating method of accumulating data of

a positional relation of individual positions where a plurality of appliances mutually

connected through a network are located, comprising:

(a) receiving different classes of state change information from a plurality of

different classes of appliances through said network, the state change information

being indicative of differing classes of operating state changes of the different classes

of appliances; which include a computing arrangement, through said network;

(b) calculating an occurrence time difference from occurrence times when the

differing classes of operating state changes have been detected as having occurred

with respect to differing appliances of the differing classes of appliances, by differing

ones of the appliances, in accordance with occurrence time information indicative of

occurrence times of the operating state changes included in the state change

information; and

(c) acquiring distance between appliances which incur the operating state

changes, based on the calculated occurrence time difference.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said

acquiring calculates the positional relation in accordance with the occurrence time

difference of the _operating_ state changes occurred in two appliances and relationship

weight information indicative of a distance between the two appliances.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein said

relationship weight information is a value calculated by a predetermined expression in

accordance with two elements _including_: number of times of occurring the _operating_

state changes; and the occurrence time difference of the _operating_ state changes

occurred in the two appliances.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~constituted of~~ _cooperative with_ a

plurality of appliances mutually connected through a network and for accumulating data

of a positional relation of _individual_ positions where the appliances are located,

comprising:

a reception means for receiving _different classes of_ state _change_ information

from a plurality of different classes of appliances through said network, the state

change information indicating operating state changes of the _different classes of_

appliances_,_ ~~which include a computing arrangement, through said network, where the~~

~~state changes change in dependence on interaction with a person;~~

calculation means calculating an occurrence time difference from occurrence

times when the _different classes of operating_ state changes have been detected as

having occurred with respect to differing appliances of the differing classes of

appliances, by differing ones of the appliances, in accordance with occurrence time

information indicative of occurrence times of the operating state changes included in

the state change information; and

acquiring means acquiring a distance between appliances which incur the

operating state changes, based on the calculated occurrence time difference.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said

acquiring means acquires the positional relation in accordance with the occurrence time

difference of the operating state changes occurred in two appliances and relationship

weight information indicative of a distance between the two appliances.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 5, comprising

storing means for storing the occurrence time difference of the operating state changes

occurred in the two appliances and the relationship weight information indicative of the

distance between the two appliances.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the

relationship weight information is a value calculated by a predetermined expression in

accordance with two elements including: number of times of occurring the operating

state changes; and the occurrence time difference of the operating state changes

occurred in the two appliances.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) A household-appliance located states accumulating method of accumulating data of a positional relation of <u>individual</u> positions where a plurality of household appliances mutually connected throughout a household are located, comprising:

(a) receiving <u>different classes of</u> state <u>change</u> information <u>from a plurality of different classes of appliances through said network, the state change information being</u> indicative of <u>differing classes of</u> operating state changes of the household appliances, ~~which include a computing arrangement, through a network,~~ where the <u>operating</u> state changes <u>occur</u> ~~occurs~~ responsive to interaction of a person in the household in proximity of <u>ones of</u> the household appliance<u>s</u>;

(b) calculating occurrence time differences from occurrence times when the <u>differing classes of operating</u> state changes have been detected as having occurred <u>with respect to differing appliances of the differing classes of appliances,</u> ~~by differing ones of the household appliances,~~ in accordance with occurrence time information indicative of occurrence times of the <u>operating</u> state changes included in the state <u>change</u> information; and

(c) acquiring distance between household appliances which incur the <u>operating</u> state changes in the household, based on the calculated occurrence time differences.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8, wherein said acquiring calculates the positional relation in accordance with the occurrence time

difference of the <u>operating</u> state changes occurred in two household appliances and

relationship weight information indicative of a distance between the two household

appliances.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein said

relationship weight information is a value calculated by a predetermined expression in

accordance with two elements <u>including</u>: number of times of occurring the <u>operating</u>

state changes; and the occurrence time difference of the <u>operating</u> state changes

occurred in the two household appliances.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) A system constituted of a plurality of household

appliances mutually connected through a network throughout a household, and for

accumulating data of a positional relation of <u>individual</u> positions where the household

appliances are located in the household, comprising:

a reception means for receiving <u>different classes of</u> state <u>change</u> information

<u>from a plurality of different classes of appliances through said network, the state</u>

<u>change information</u> indicating <u>differing classes of</u> operating state changes of the

<u>different classes of</u> household appliances, ~~which include a computing arrangement,~~

~~through said network,~~ where the <u>operating</u> state change<u>s occur</u> ~~occurs~~ responsive to

interaction of a person in the household in proximity of the household appliance;

calculation means calculating occurrence time differences from occurrence times

when the <u>differing classes of operating</u> state changes have been detected as having

occurred with respect to differing appliances of the differing classes of appliances, by differing ones of the household appliances, in accordance with occurrence time information indicative of occurrence times of the operating state changes included in the state change information; and

acquiring means acquiring a distance between household appliances which incur the operating state changes in the household, based on the calculated occurrence time differences.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 11, wherein said acquiring means acquires the positional relation in accordance with the occurrence time difference of the operating state changes occurred in two household appliances and relationship weight information indicative of a distance between the two household appliances.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 12, comprising storing means for storing the occurrence time difference of the operating state changes occurred in the two household appliances and the relationship weight information indicative of the distance between the two household appliances.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 13, wherein the relationship weight information is a value calculated by a predetermined expression in accordance with two elements including: number of times of occurring the operating

ANDO, et al., 10/020,116   500.40994X00 / E6320-01EW
17 November 2006 Amendment   Page 8
Responsive to 17 July 2006 Office Action

state changes; and the occurrence time difference of the <u>operating</u> state changes

occurred in the two household appliances.